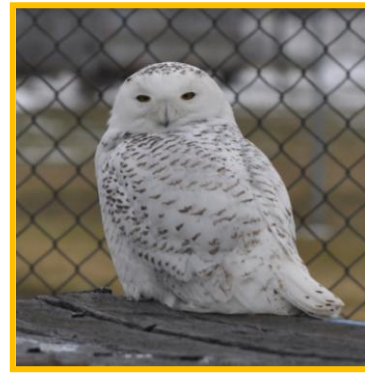




Friday
February 25,
2011

Weekly Views

Westville Correctional Facility has received lots of attention from envious bird watchers around the nation. A Snowy Owl was spotted perched on a security tower over the weekend and has been sighted hanging around the facility as late as Thursday afternoon. Staff from the Department of Natural Resources visited the facility to confirm the sighting and indicated a Snowy Owl, a native from the high Arctic Circle, had not been spotted in the state for several years. Renowned watchers have contacted staff for verification and an opportunity to photograph the rare creature. (see photo right.)



Richard Brown has been named Superintendent of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). The nearly 20 year Department veteran said he is honored to serve the IDOC in his new assignment and added that staff at WVCF are top notch! Superintendent Brown said he will work to maintain a positive culture inside the maximum-security facility, dedicated to successful offender re-entry.

Congratulations to Pendleton Correctional Facility Correctional Officer Keri Gallagher who has been promoted to the position of Correctional Counselor at the facility. Best wishes to Keri as she begins this new phase of her correctional career!

Miami Correctional Facility held its quarterly recall meeting. During the meeting, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Daryl Walls and Custody Supervisor Major Michael Hale presented Operational Awards to Sergeant Jason Tedder, Sergeant Christopher Ertel, Sergeant David Rish, Lt. Dennis Reagle, Sergeant Christopher Meredith, and Officer Matthew Jones.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted a "Volunteer Appreciation Dessert Bar." Awards were given for "Volunteer Group of the Year" to Madison Presbyterian Church, "Volunteer Individual of the Year" to Crystal Dashiell, "Most Faithful Volunteer" to Prince of Peace Catholic Parish, and "Student Choice" to Dr. Richard Hinchman.

Beth Faulkenberg, Food Service Director for Branchville Correctional Facility, was named the Food Service Director of the Year for the Indiana Department of Correction. She was presented the award during Aramark's Annual Indiana District Meeting. District Manager for Aramark Correctional Food Service in Indiana Curt Correll stated, "With Branchville's continued support, Beth has been able to showcase her leadership savvy and managerial experience." Beth has over five years experience with Aramark at the Branchville Correctional Facility.

The Central Office Can Do Team participated in the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Canned Food Drive sculpture contest. Staff gathered to cheer on the team, who had 30 minutes to complete a sculpture using the cans they had collected throughout the month of February. Central Office collected 358 cans and raised \$154.35 for this worthy cause. Although they didn't win the sculpture contest, support from their fellow staff members was so awesome that they were winners anyway! Hats off to the Central Office staff!



Wabash Valley is going green and saving green in the process. Solar panels are being installed on a housing unit to help heat water for up to 200 daily offender showers. Over its projected 30 year life span the system should save \$300,000! Bloomington based Mann Plumbing Inc. is putting the \$75 thousand dollar project together. It will pay for itself in just 15 years with minimum maintenance.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) staff and residents combined their talents to pay tribute to and to celebrate African American History in a production entitled "Reflections of Black History". Kamala Devi Harris, Teena Marie, Harriet Tubman, and Phyllis Wheatly were among the many pioneers recognized during the "Tribute to Sisterhood", which honored many women for their contributions to Black history and society. (see photo above of Specialist Miranda Weliver and an IREF Resident performing as Teena Marie and Rick James)

New Castle Correctional Facility presented the Black History Play "Lessons from the Porch" with several Central Office guests in attendance.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center hosted a group from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. 18 Sheriff's Department Jail Officers from throughout the state toured the facility and learned about the DOC intake process.

IDOC Central Office came together for "Clean Up Day" in preparation for their upcoming ACA audit. Staff started their spring cleaning early this year and enjoyed a pitch-in lunch. Superintendent Brian Smith at Plainfield Correctional Facility graciously donated cleaning solution and rags to Central Office to aid in the clean up.

140 volunteers participated in the Kairos Program at New Castle Correctional Facility.